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**Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com**

**WENDY BLENMAN (Dip. Couns., MSc in therapeutic counselling)**

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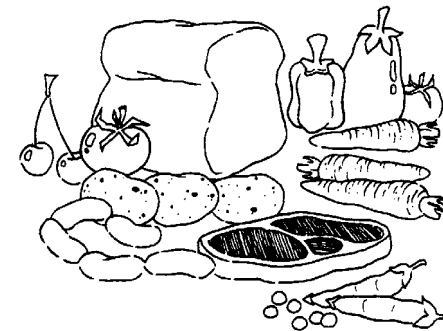
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT  
MAGAZINE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN  
YOUNG BY

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

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Anerley Methodist Church, Oakfield Road, Anerley,  
London SE20 8QA  
Web site:www.anerleymethodist.org

**ANERLEY CENTRE  
ECHO**



**AUTUMN 2008**

**The Newsletter of  
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 021.07.08) All prefix 020

Church (Minister is not available on this number)		8289 6771
Minister	Rev. Graham Cocking	8653 4902
Church Council Secretary	Emmanuel Anaman	7274 6294
Treasurer	Andrew Tredinnick	8658 2347
Property Steward	David Hynes	8289 3524
Property Bookings	David Hynes	8289 3524
Baptismal/Cradle Roll	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
Junior Church Secretary	Janice Friend	8659 2905
Christian Action Group	Valerie & Andrew Tredinnick	8658 2347
Wednesday Club	Marian Young	8402 6618
Church Library	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Missions Secretary	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
Junior Missionary Association	Dinah Anaman	7274 6294
NCH Action for Children	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Christian Aid		
Oxfam	Joan Loring	8659 1658
Penge Forum		
Penge Community Pre-School (Church)		8289 6771
Jumoke Holiday Club	Audrey Bobb	8656 8684

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EDITOR: Marian Young phone: 020 8402 6618 E-mail  
m.young23@ntlworld.com

# METHODIST

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## Penge Community Pre-School

Leader: Sarah Batchelor  
 Deputy Leader: Sue Charlesworth  
 SENCO: Teresa Ford

Anerley Methodist Church  
 Oakfield Road  
 Anerley  
 SE20 8QA

**Ofsted Inspected**

**Established 30 years**

**Learning through play**

**for children 3 to 5 years**

**£5 per Morning or Afternoon**

**9.20am to 11.50am & 12.30pm to 3pm**

**Government funding for 3 & 4 year olds**

**Vacancies**

**Tel. 020 8289 6771 or 01959 575 441**

**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008**

**Volume 40 Number 3**

### LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Two occasions strike me as I begin to write today. The first is a walk I had last week, the second a meeting, both set me thinking.

The walk took me alongside some allotments. In fact many allotments all beautifully kept, all growing plants and food, all creating community, a close bonding friendly community of likeminded people.

The meeting reminded me of little children, young, untainted by society, innocent, making the most of life. These children also were being busy in community, were likeminded in getting along doing what was needed to be done, together sharing, learning. Seeds for the future.

Then I heard from the world. Financial markets in chaos, strife on our streets, gun and knife crime, drugs, the gang culture, war, villages, gardens and people being ripped apart physically and psychologically, being destroyed.

So I pondered. My mind created myriads of patterns, discernible and non-discernible, it went from hope to despair and back to hope. I pondered and in my pondering I thought of harvest.

Those allotments with their growing fruit and vegetables continually producing, having been given loving care. A love and care that transcended the vegetables themselves: reaching into the realms of the people's lives and creating a loving, caring community. What a harvest! A harvest as we often think of it in the produce of our land from seed to fruit. Also

the harvest of life, from loving and caring, to community.

Then there are the children. What a harvest there! A harvest of hearts and minds, seeds for the future. How though can they be encouraged to be a part of a community of hope when they see so much of that community, a world of despair? How can we assist them so that they recognise how important they will be in creating and sharing in the harvest of peace and love in the future? How can we bring them to see this when before their eyes there is the pursuit of greed, hatred, torture and violence?

Surely there is only one answer and that is acting on what we believe. Proclaiming and ensuring through our own actions that kindness, love, caring should be pre-eminent in our lives giving them the right soil in which the seed that is themselves can be sown.

A child who is brought up with anger will be angry.

A child brought up in violence will be violent.

A child brought up without love will be loveless.

A child who is hurt will end up hurting.

Yet a child brought up with kindness, consideration, understanding and love will be a child with a chance of being so themselves and encouraging that in others.

Choose the soil for our children. Tend the seed well and our world will be a world that Christ and God will be justifiably proud and will be able to say: 'It is good'

**' Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and with all your strength, and your neighbour as yourself.'**

Graham

## CIRCUIT BOUNDARIES

At our postponed Annual General Church Meeting held on 21st September Graham told us how circuit boundaries in Methodism were changing and getting larger following amalgamations.

There were many reasons for this. There was a shortage of ministers generally and, in particular, it was becoming difficult to find Ministers qualified and prepared to be Superintendents and to cope with the amount of administration now necessary; a fewer number of larger circuits would help in that fewer Superintendents would be required. Furthermore larger circuits would mean that more resources would be available within the circuit.

The Sydenham and Forest Hill Circuit, the Blackheath and Lewisham Circuit and the Bromley Circuit are having preliminary talks and discussing possible options. The talks may result in a larger circuit or they may result in churches joining other circuits.

There would be some advantages to our Circuit in being part of a larger circuit in that there would be more resources open to us, e.g. both the Bromley and Blackheath and Lewisham Circuits have larger numbers of local preachers than us.

Graham stressed that before any decisions are made the local Circuit Meetings, Church Councils and Church Meetings will be able to discuss the proposals and decide what they want to do.

Marian

## SCOUT GROUP

It is with sadness that we report the closure of our Scout Group, the 3rd Penge and Beckenham North, at the end of July. In common with other organisations there were problems in finding leaders and the subsequent lack of boys wishing to join. Evelyn Richards has served loyally as Cub Leader for many years and it is thanks to her commitment that the Group managed to keep going, with a nucleus of loyal cubs, until the end of July. At the recent Scout District AGM Evelyn was presented with the Chief Scout's Award for services to Scouting, in recognition of her work.

The Group was the first to be set up in the area in the early 20th Century and it is always sad when something so long-lived finally finishes. Our legacy is the many boys who have passed through the Group over the years and who will look back with happy memories of the good times they had and the life skills they learned in the 3rd Penge and Beckenham North Scout Group.

Marian

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## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival service was held on Sunday morning, 28th September.

Graham conducted a very good service in which we sang many of our favourite Harvest hymns with gusto. This was followed by a sumptuous bring-and-share lunch. Thanks to all those who did the preparation and the washing up.

Joan Loring

## ROUND THE FAMILY

Adam McKop has now left hospital and is in a care home in Bromley as he needs a higher level of nursing care than can be given at home. Please remember Adam and his family in your prayers.

We send our congratulations to Sylvester and Louise Oppong following their wedding at Forest Hill Methodist Church at the end of August. The day was hot and sunny following a couple of gloomy damp weeks and was a lovely occasion with many friends and family attending the service.

The Autumn is a time of change for many people and we send our best wishes to any in our church family who are moving on to college or university, who are starting new schools, new courses or new jobs or who are leaving home for the first time.

Marian

## SONGS OF PRAISE

I would like to thank the organiser and all those who took part in the wonderfully uplifting Songs of Praise service which was held on the Sunday morning of the 31st August.

It was a time of praise, worship and fun and was much enjoyed by all the congregation.

I do hope that a service on similar lines may be held sometime in the future.

Joan Loring

## JOB

### Wrestling with God

A Study Series in 12 sessions

By Paul Stevens

At Anerley Methodist Church Thursdays 8pm- 9.30pm

#### Sessions 7-12

23rd October	The Problem of Pain . Job 20: 1-19; 21: 1-16.
30th October	The Silence of God. Job 23
6th November	Songs in the Night. Job 35; 36: 13-16
13th November	God in the Storm. Job 38: 1-11,31-41; 40: 1-5
20th November	The joy of Repentance. Job 40: 6-14; 42: 1-6
27th November	Is faith always worthwhile? Job 42: 7-17



Christian Love; Eucharist; the Oneness of Humanity. Contributors for 2009 include writers from countries such as Brazil, Canada, Estonia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia, India and many more. Join them on their voyage of discovery through the riches of God's Word. Editor Kate Hughes shapes the text so that it is accessible to new Christians. Each week there are questions for group discussion and personal thought. Every day there is a short prayer in addition to the commentary.

#### Words for Today 2009

This volume is intended to provoke and stimulate the reader. It tests the reading of the Bible with the many challenges of modern life. What is God saying to guide us in what we have to do today? Birmingham-based poet and theologian Nicola Slee edits these notes, drawing on her contacts around the world. Amongst the writers this year are Tom Arthur, Ian Boxall, Jim Cotter, Rachel Mann, Rachel Montagu, Lori Rizzo, Christopher Rowland, Jan Such Pickard, Sybil Sheridan and many more. One reader has written, "I believe that you should be commended for producing something that often takes a different line from the usual run of notes. Thank you for having the courage to include among your writers those of a different faith or lifestyle." Each week there are points raised for reflection and for action.

If you would like to place an order please see Marian Young. Prices for either book are £8.25 each, with a 10% reduction if we order a total of more than 6 copies. Light for our Path is available in Large Print for £11 (no reduction) and both books are available on cassette for £8 - Light for our Path, and £8.25 - Words for Today.

## TALENTS FESTIVAL

The next Methodist Talents Festival will take place on Saturday 7th March 2009 at Shirley Methodist Church.

However, NOW is the time to think about which classes you would like to enter. There are a variety of classes to suit everyone, from "live" classes such as singing, Bible reading or playing an instrument, to handicrafts and photography. No one is too young or too old to enter!

A copy of the syllabus is on the notice board, together with a list on which you can enter your name and the classes you wish to enter. There are a few spare copies of the syllabus at the back of the Church if you want to take one away and think about what you can do.

Ideally I would like names before Christmas but certainly NO LATER THAN Sunday 4th January 2009. I shall need finished handicraft entries by Sunday 18th January 2009, so you have 3 months to finish that knitted cushion cover!

Marian

## INTERNATIONAL BIBLE READING ASSOCIATION

Annual volumes of day-by-day Bible Reading Notes in the popular page-a-day layout are available for 2009 as follows:

### Light for our Path

This is the more contemplative series of notes for use perhaps in a daily personal prayer time. Since it prints the key verse of the biblical text, *Light for our Path* can be used with no Bible to hand, say on the journey to work. Amongst the books explored this year are Mark, John, Ezekiel, Hebrews and Revelation. Study themes include Who is Jesus?

## BENEVOLENT FUND

The amounts given in the retiring collections for specific charities for 2007/8 are as follows:-

November	Bromley Talking Newspaper (local)	£25-70
February	R.N. I. for the Deaf (national)	£37-50
May	Practical Action (overseas)	£20-62
August	M. R. D. F. (Methodist)	£34-57

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## SPONSORED WALK

The Christian Action Group needs to raise funds in order to continue to support a number of charities. I am proposing to undertake another of my Green Chain walks, this time from Nunhead via the Crystal Palace, to Chislehurst (about 14 miles), and would welcome sponsors.

I hope to do the walk during November. If you are willing to be a sponsor please see me at church on a forthcoming Sunday.

The spur from Nunhead only opened on 16th September. Valerie and I were present at the opening ceremony, and took part in the inaugural walk. A description of this event and the sponsored walk will appear in a future edition of the Church magazine.

Andrew T.

## FLOWERS

Thank you to all those who have joined the Flower Rota at the Church; it's so nice to come in and be greeted by such bright and colourful arrangements.

We are, however, a very small band of volunteers and would welcome more help.

The rota is arranged on a three-monthly basis so if you could do just one Sunday it would be such a help. No experience is needed and you can claim back the money from the flower fund if necessary. A special "Thank you" to all those who contribute on a regular basis towards this fund.

Also, if you have a special date you would like commemorated at the Church you could do the flowers for that day, or ask for one of the volunteers to do it for you.

Please talk to me if you can help, it would be very much appreciated!

Janice



## OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS

Outreach to the Homeless are a local voluntary group who supply items of clothing and essential toiletries to local homeless people and those sleeping on the streets of London. In preparation for the coming winter they find that their stocks are low and have asked whether any of our congregation have surplus items they wish to dispose of.

They need men's clothing and useful items as listed below:-

T shirts	jeans	shoes	trainers
Hankies	scarves	gloves	hats
Underwear	holdalls	coats	flannels
Towels	soap	disposable razors	plasters

Toilet bags

If you wish to donate any items, please give them to me and I will pass them on to the organisers. There is also a list on the notice board in the entrance hall, to remind you of what is needed.

If you like knitting, scarves and hats are fairly straightforward, but try to use darker coloured yarns as these are more practical.

Marian

